Minimum support price for jute

400. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minimum Support Price (MSP) for jute have been fixed by the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken measures to realize the MSP by the jute cultivators; and

(c) what amount of jute is decided to be procured by the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken all possible measures to realize the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the jute cultivators and Minimum Support Price has been publicized through various mass media at the State level and also through the publicity wing of the Government of India. For undertaking MSP operations, the Jute Corporation of India (JCI), the nodal agency of the Government of India, has opened 171 procurement centres. In order to increase its market coverage the JCI is taking help of the Apex Cooperative Societies of the jute growing States. There are 87 Centres managed by the State Cooperative Societies. The Government of India has already given Bank Guarantee for Rs. 33 crores to the JCI to avail cash credit facility for undertaking the MSP operations.

(c) The MSP operations conducted by the JCI is open-ended and no quantitative limt for procurement of raw jute is fixed. The JCI is obliged to buy whatever quantity is offered to them by the growers at support price. The actual quantity of raw jute to be procured by the JCI during the current year will depend upon the rice behavior prevailing in the market based on the domestic as well as international demand-supply conditions.